

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE

DEFINITION:

Under supervision of a Registered Nurse to provide nursing care for patients in a hospital or clinic, and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Positions in this class are found in the Department of Health Services and Sheriff. LVN's provide skilled nursing care to patients and clients at mental health facilities (locked, inpatient, and day treatment), at a geriatric/long-term rehabilitation hospital, in public health clinics or in a detention facility. This class differs from psychiatric technician in that LVN training emphasizes hospital, medical, and surgical terminology and procedures while (licensed) psychiatric technician training emphasizes psychotherapeutic approaches and modalities in patient care. Psychiatric technicians are not certified to withdraw blood.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Provides nursing care to patients; administers oral, intramuscular, and subcutaneous medications; provide treatments including dressings, catheterization, irrigations, and enemas; observes patients' symptoms, behavior, progress and keeps clinical records; assists physicians and professional nurses as directed; takes temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure; may do venipuncture if certified; assists in preparing and implementing individual patient care plans, transcribing and carrying out doctors' orders; participates in team conferences; assists in patient education and rehabilitation; assists charge nurse in laboratory procedures; maintains supply levels; refers patients to social welfare agencies as needed; may occasionally supervise nurse assistants and mental health aides; participates in community education programs; may assist patients in the discharge process; in a mental health setting, the LVN may be involved in one-to-one and group counseling.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

General Knowledge of:

- Principles, methods, and procedures of modern nursing care.
- Techniques of administering medications and treatments.
- Common medical terminology, hospital procedures, and equipment.
- Psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, and recreational needs of the patient.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Employ standard hospital routines and techniques and learn the more specialized and difficult techniques and procedures.
- Attend to the personal hygiene needs of patients.
- Render emergency first aid.
- Follow oral and written directions and complete records.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with other staff and the general public.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and/or experience, which would likely demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Up-to-date knowledge of vocational nursing through completion of a recognized Vocational Nursing Program is required. Certification of completion of courses in Blood Withdrawal and/or IV Therapy is highly desirable.

SPECIAL LICENSES, NOTES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

Must be licensed to practice vocational nursing in the state of California. A current California Class C driver's license may be required. Some positions may require a Class B driver's license within 90 days of appointment.

Note:

Current CPR card is required.

Working Conditions:

Incumbents may have occasional contact with patients with communicable diseases and persons that may be potentially violent or disturbed. Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs., and occasionally 60 lbs.

Character:

Applicants must have reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions, depending upon type, number, and recency may be disqualifying. Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment in Health Services Program that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to a limited security clearance investigation performed by the Sheriff's Department.

Background Investigation:

Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment in the Sheriff's Department detention facilities will be subject to a background investigation which will include a polygraph examination.

